

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DPW-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 030946Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2631

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SAINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,ID,VS,VN

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON GOI THREAT TO LEAVE ICCS

SUMMARY: SIX EDITORIALS ON INDONESIA'S ROLE IN ICCS
HAVE APPEARED IN JAKARTA PRESS SINCE GOVERNMENT'S
ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 14 THAT INDONESIA WOULD WITHDRAW FROM
ICCS UNLESS PARTIES OBSERVE PARIS AGREEMENTS. ALL
EDITORIALS ENDORSE GOVERNMENT'S MAY 14 ANNOUNCEMENT IN
PRINCIPL, AS EXPECTED IN VIEW OF OFFICIAL RESTRAINTS ON
PRESS CRITICISM IN EFFECT SINCE JANUARY DISTURBANCES.
THERE ARE VARIATIONS, HOWEVER, BETWEEN "WAIT A WHILE

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LONGER AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS" APPROACH

IN SOME COMMENTS AND "WE'RE FED UP AND SHOULD

GET OUT NOW" LINE IN OTHERS. END SUMMARY

1. SINAR HARAPAN, RESPECTED PROTESTANT DAILY WHICH IS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TOWARD WEST IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, SUGGESTED GINGERLY IN MAY 16 EDITORIAL THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM ICCS NOW MIGHT BE PREMATURE. EDITORIAL NOTED INDONESIA'S ROLE IN ICCS WAS IN KEEPING WITH ITS "ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY" AND ITS STRONG INTEREST IN ACHIEVING PEACE IN VIETNAM. IT OBSERVED THAT INDONESIA'S THREAT TO LEAVE ICCS IF PARTIES TO PARIS AGREEMENT DO NOT COOPERATE LEFT OPEN QUESTION OF HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO JUDGE WHETHER SUCH COOPERATION WAS POSSIBLE. IF IF BECOMES CLEAR IT IS NOT, EDITORIAL NOTED, INDONESIA WOULD GIVE THE PARTIES TIME TO FIND A REPLACEMENT. BUT SITUATION IN VIETNAM IS "EXTREMELY COMPLICATED;" THERE WILL PROBABLY BE NO FINAL TOTAL VICTORY FOR EITHER SIDE IN CONFLICT, AND ALL THAT CAN BE DONE MEANWHILE IS "TO WATCH DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY" UNTIL RESOLUTION EMERGES. "IN THE MEANTIME, EXPERIENCE WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE ICCS WILL REMAIN USEFUL TO US," SINAR HARAPAN CONCLUDED.

2. STRIKING SIMILAR CAUTIOUS NOTE, ARMY-BACKED BERITA-YUDHA OBSERVED MAY 16 THAT INDONESIA WAS PERFORMING "A HOLY FUNCTION" IN SEEKING PEACE IN VIETNAM. EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ICCS HAD THUS FAR FAILED IN THIS EFFORT AND THAT INDONESIA'S ROLE WOULD NO LONGER BE USEFUL IF PARTIES THEMSELVES DO NOT RESPECT THE PARIS AGREEMENT. IT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT INDONESIA IS "WISE NOT TO WITHDRAW HASTILY," ESPRESSED GUARDED HOPE THAT INDONESIA'S INTENTION TO RENEW CONTACTS WITH PARTIES TO FIND SOLUTION MIGHT WORK, AND URGED COOPERATION BY "SUPERPOWERS".

3. THE CATHOLIC-OWNED KOMPAS, WHOSE EDITORIALS ARE OFTEN THE MOSTTHOUGHTFUL OF ALL OF JAKARTA'S NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED ITSELF TO SURPRISINGLY INNOCUOUS RESTATEMENT OF GOI POSITION ON ICCS AND OFFERED NO COMMENT.

4. THE MOSLEM DAILY PELITA COMMENTED MAY 16 THAT GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MAKE FURTHER APPEALS TO PARTIES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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REACH AGREEMENT BEFORE DECIDING TO WITHDRAW IF COOPERATION FAILED WAS "REASONABLE AND OBJECTIVE." HOWEVER, THE EDITORIAL ADDED "IF THE PURPOSE OF INDONESIA'S PARTICIPATION IS NOT RESPECTED BY THE PARTIES WHO WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT, THEN IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCOUNT FOR INDONESIA'S POSITION IN THE ICCS." PELITA URGED PARTIES TO TAKE NOTE OF INDONESIA'S POSITION AND FIND A SETTLEMENT.

5. A TOUGHER PRO-WITHDRAWAL VIEW WAS EXPRESSED MAY 29

BY MERDEKA, THE RADICAL-NATIONALIST AND OFTEN ANTI-AMERICAN DAILY AFTER AN EARLIER ANODYNE COMMENT ON MAY 17. MAY 29 EDITORIAL DECLARES THAT BECAUSE OF CONTINUED FIGHTING IN VIETNAM "UNDER THE EYES OF THE ICCS... INDONESIA NO LONGER CONSIDERS HER PRESENCE THERE OF ANY USE AND (HAS) ANNOUNCED HER INTENTION TO WITHDRAW." INDONESIA'S "DECISION HAS SHOCKED THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD, PARTICULARLY QUARTERS RELATED TO THE BATTLEFIELD IN VIETNAM," AND "THE U.S. AMBASSADOR FOUND IT NECESSARY TO ASK FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK ABOUT INDONESIA'S POSITION IN THE ICCS." MERDEKA COMPLAINS THAT INDONESIA IS CRITICIZED BY NORTH VIETNAM AND THE VIET CONG FOR TRYING TO DO ITS JOB AND QUESTIONS PEACEFUL INTENTIONS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE VIET CONG AS WELL AS U.S. NOTING THAT U.S. HAS MILITARY FORCES STATIONED NEARBY. "THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM NEVER IMPROVES, AND IT IS A NUISANCE TO THE FOUR ICCS MEMBERS WHO CAN HARDLY MAINTAIN AN OBJECTIVE BALANCE." MERDEKA CONCLUDES THAT "ALTHOUGH WE ARE WILLING TO DO GOOD FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND HUMANITY, WE ARE DRIVEN TO A DIFFICULT POSITION AND LOSING SYMPATHY FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS AND THAT IS TOO HEAVY A BURDEN FOR US TO CONTINUE TO BEAR." THIS LINE WAS TAKEN EARLIER IN A MAY 27 EDITORIAL IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INDONESIAN OBSERVER (OWNED BY WIFE OF MERDEKA'S PUBLISHER B.M. DIAH).
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